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# WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**1963**




# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



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DECEMBER 1963**

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*Chairman :*

Councillor M. P. RYAN

*Vice-Chairman :*

Councillor H. Evans

*Members :*

Councillor Mrs. D. DAVIES

Councillor H. P. FITZMAURICE

Councillor B. D. GANDY

Councillor A. JOHNSON

Councillor S. J. PERKS

Councillor C. H. G. TOMLINSON

Councillor S. H. REYNOLDS

## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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*Medical Officer of Health :*

J. H. E. BAINES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Chief Public Health Inspector :*

P. H. G. GRIMMETT, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.I.S.A.A.  
Dip. Smoke Inspectors.

*Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :*

A. L. MORGAN, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H., Dip. Smoke Inspectors.

*Additional Public Health Inspector :*

F. COLDRICK, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Dip. Smoke Inspectors.

*Pupil Public Health Inspector :*

T. TOWNSEND

*Public Health Assistant :*

H. P. POOLE

*Shorthand-Typists :*

Mrs. M. J. MITCHELL.

Mrs. A. C. BAILEY.

Miss M. CHARLTON



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1963

**To the Chairman and Members  
of Wednesfield Urban District Council**

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

The introductory remarks have usually been opened by saying how much pleasure it is to present the report, but in presenting my report for 1963 I would like to say that my pleasure is tinged with a certain amount of regret since at the time of preparing this report I know that some time will elapse before it will be put before you, and in the meanwhile I will have moved to another post elsewhere.

The few remarks I have to make seem reasonable to me at the time of preparing the report but I trust you will forgive me if the passage of time before publication makes some seem less so.

During 1963 we were spared any such alarming occasions as that of the smallpox scare of the previous year though other infectious diseases showed their teeth. Paratyphoid fever briefly appeared with cases in a puzzling relationship to each other (as described in the body of the report), and whooping cough took an infant life, thus warning us against over-confidence.

Population trends followed the recent pattern and the only item of real note from the vital statistics was the further deterioration in the position respecting infant mortality and stillbirths, particularly the latter. Although disturbing, no obvious cause for the deterioration presents itself and one must hope that it is merely a chance variation to be balanced by a better than average experience in 1964. I comment on this in a little more detail in the appropriate section.

Very much on the credit side were developments in the welfare field. The accommodation at Hodson Close specially designed to enable the slightly handicapped to live independently and yet in companionship progressed to the opening of the bungalows and the

appointment of a warden with the flatlets to come into use later ; the possibility of opening luncheon clubs for the old to serve different parts of the district began to be discussed and last but not least a meals-on-wheels scheme was started in February with the Council's blessing and assistance. The mechanics of this much needed and appreciated service are considered in the appropriate section but I would like to note that although the willingness of the District Council and of the Divisional Education Office are essential to the scheme, the burden of operating the scheme falls most heavily on the W.V.S. volunteers (organised by Mrs. F. Pritchard of The Hawthornes, Graiseley Lane), who at great inconvenience and often physical discomfort serve the meals to the old people, and also on Miss Heathcock and the other kitchen staff at Moathouse County Primary School. We must not forget either the Council's van drivers who are often most helpful in ways beyond the strict line of duty.

Visiting to select persons for this service has taken me into the homes of a large number of old people and I have become acquainted with many of their problems. Clearly the largest single problem faced by many of them is loneliness and isolation from the general business of the community. In some such instances it is clearly the case that this loneliness and isolation is but a reflection of their personality and interests as evidenced in earlier years and that poor interpersonal relationships, say, within the family, have often long antedated the coming of old age. Nevertheless in many cases old people become isolated because of relatively small handicaps, often a simply decreasing ability to cope with steps, crowds and traffic (as may happen with younger persons also) and even where family relationships are good time and distance often reduce contact to relatively short periods.

Much of the assistance provided by local authorities and other organisations and individuals whether relatives or not is only rendered necessary because of what one might term the defective environment and although the problem of the old is a large one that I do not wish to discuss at this time I would like to urge one point that is not often considered.

I feel most strongly that the whole of our environment (shops, public offices, places of entertainment, etc.) should be designed in such a way that it is easily accessible at all points to the handicapped of any age. The problem of designing individual buildings to fulfil this need is not a great one but movement from one place to another is at the present time bedevilled by the motor vehicle problem and clearly nothing short of a revolution here will allow the old, the blind and the crippled free and safe access to their surrounding environment, not forgetting the vital needs of that large group handicapped by lack of

experience and maturity—children. The virtual isolation of many of this last group in their own dwellings and gardens is as tragic as the isolation of the old and how we can so easily accept the present limitations on safe and free association between child and child or child and environment astonishes me. Many solutions to the traffic problem have been urged and monorails have lately caught the imagination. Having studied the many schemes for elevating people and leaving the surface of the earth to the car I wonder if it would not be more sensible to push the traffic underground and keep to our proper place. A computer controlled system of individually summoned small carriages would not seem to be beyond the wit of man to devise and although it would clearly be tremendously costly we are faced in any event with vast expenditure on transport. There would obviously be many savings also and I firmly believe that the return in improved physical and mental health would be tremendous. The whole fabric of our lives would be enriched by freeing the planners and architects from the present domination of road transport needs over all their work.

Should I have seemed to digress I offer no apologies since I see no reason why we medical officers should be less concerned with such fundamentals of our society than with, say, the provision of individually fit dwellings which we regard as our proper field, considering it our aim not to render first-aid to the innumerable ills resulting from such defects as are clearly inherent in our present transport system but to try to achieve true prevention.

I remain,

Your obedient, Servant

J. H. E. BAINES,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



## DESCRIPTION OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

Area .....	2,515 acres
Estimated Population (mid-year)	34,730
Rateable Value (at 1.4.63) .....	£1,231,460
General Rate (1963-64) .....	9s. 4d.
Product of a Penny Rate .....	£4,736

I am indebted to the Rating Department for the following information :—

<i>Classification</i>	<i>Number</i>
Domestic Houses, etc. (as at 1.4.63)	10,305
Commercial Properties .....	1,559
On-Licensed Premises .....	24
Entertainment and Recreational .....	22
Public Utility .....	6
Educational and Cultural .....	17
Sewage Diposal Works .....	2
Crown Property .....	5
Miscellaneous .....	81
Industrial .....	80

The District is bounded on its Northern Aspect by Cannock Rural District, on the North West, West and South West sides by the County Borough of Wolverhampton, and on the South East, East and North East by Willenhall Urban District.

The elevation is higher than the majority of its environs and is in most parts 450-525 ft. above sea level.

The inhabitants are engaged in a variety of trades which represent a typical cross-section of the Black Country community, i.e., a variety of iron and steel work with tube-making a prominent activity, foundry work, coal mining, etc. More peculiar to the district are keysmiths, locksmiths and steel trap makers.

The general health of the population is satisfactory.



# VITAL STATISTICS

(Figures in Parenthesis indicate 1962 Statistics)  
 Estimated Mid-Year Population 34,730 (34,200)

## BIRTHS

Live Births				Male	Female		
Legitimate	.....	.....	.....	372	341		
Illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	11	24		
				<u>383</u>	<u>357</u>	Total	740 (794)
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population						21.91	(23.21)
Corrected birth rate per 1,000 population							
(area comparability factor—0.75)						16.43	(19.50)
Stillbirths				Male	Female		
Legitimate	.....	.....	.....	11	10		
Illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	—	—		
				<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	Total	21 (17)
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths						27.6	(21.0)
Total births						761	(811)
Illegitimate births as a percentage of all births						3.5	(4.7)

## INFANT MORTALITY

Total deaths under one year of age	.....	.....			18	(17)
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	.....	.....			24.3	(21.4)
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	.....	.....			16.2	(7.6)
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	.....	.....			43.4	(28.4)
Number of children surviving to age 1 year per 1,000 viable pregnancies	.....	.....				
				Male	949	
				Female	948	
				Combined	949	(958)

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

Number of deaths	.....	.....	.....	.....	0
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DEATHS (All causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	Male	119	
					Female	108	
					Total	<u>227</u>	(239)
Crude death rate per 1,000 population						6.5	(7.0)
Corrected death rate (area comparability factor 1.96)						12.8	(13.0)

EXCESS OF LIVE BIRTHS OVER DEATHS	.....				513	(555)
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## POPULATION CHANGE

Number	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	+ 530	(1,020)
Percentage	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	+ 1.55	(3.07)

## Notes on Vital Statistics

The rate of population increase showed a further marked fall with almost the whole of the increase attributable to an excess of births over deaths so that net immigration into the district was very small. The birth rate fell again though the several housing developments planned in Wednesfield might yet cause a substantial elevation.

It is sad to have to report yet again a deterioration in the mortality experience of the unborn and newly born. This year both the infant mortality rate and the stillbirth rate showed a change for the worse. In respect of the former the change can be easily accepted as being chance fluctuation such as I discussed in my 1962 report though there was a marked change in the distribution and cause of deaths during that year with a preponderance of deaths very early in life and a great number of these associated with prematurity, in some cases extreme. With more midwives and fewer births to be coped with at home one might have hoped that any marked change in the chances of infant survival would have been for the better but the markedly increased stillbirth rate belies our hopes and cannot be viewed without concern. However, it would still be possible for this increase to be due entirely to chance variation and this is what one must hope since there is no other cause readily ascertainable, the stillbirths not being particularly linked by time, place, or any other known factor. Indeed, as recently as 1960 the rate was even (slightly) higher and this has been balanced by one good year since. As I have previously noted the causes of stillbirths and early infant death are often basically the same and it was not, therefore, a very rational procedure when we were obtaining details of the infant deaths but not of the stillbirths. However, before these statistics had been made available arrangements had been made with the local registrar for the passing on of information about stillbirths occurring in the district and central authority also recently made arrangements for the eventual transfer of similar information about those stillbirths occurring outside the district, in hospital, etc., but relevant to the assessment of Wednesfield's welfare. This latter group does in fact constitute the greater part of the stillbirths—unsurprisingly since labours which are complicated or likely to be associated with a greater risk are more often dealt with in hospital. There is no evidence that the local shortage of maternity places in hospital is directly relevant to the stillbirths which have occurred but such a shortage could have subtle influences on local experience.

Other statistics showed no marked variation from the previous year though the more usual nil record under maternal mortality is welcomed back and also on the credit side we had an improvement in the illegitimacy rate which one might hope is not temporary.

TABLE I.

**UNDERLYING CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANCY**

**Year 1963**

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 Day	1 Day to 1 Week	1 Week to 4 Weeks	4 Weeks to 3 Months	3 Months to 6 Months	6 Months to 1 Year	Totals
Prematurity .....	5	5	—	—	—	—	10
Birth Injury .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations .....	—	1	—	2	1	—	4
Respiratory Infection .....	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Gastro-Intestinal Infection .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (All Causes) .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infections .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhesus Incompatibility .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accidental Asphyxia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other .....	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
TOTALS .....	5	7	—	3	3	—	18



TABLE II.

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT  
DURING 1963**

**Registrar-General's Return**

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory System .....	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Other .....	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease .....	1	—	1
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	1	—	1
Meningococcal Infections .....	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	—	—	—
Cancer of Stomach .....	5	1	6
Cancer of Lung, Bronchus .....	10	1	11
Cancer of Breast .....	—	2	2
Cancer of Uterus .....	—	1	1
Other Malignant Diseases .....	6	7	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	—	2	2
Diabetes .....	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	9	14	23
Coronary disease, angina .....	20	15	35
Hypertension with heart disease .....	—	2	2
Other Heart diseases .....	4	17	21
Other Diseases of Circulatory System .....	7	2	9
Influenza .....	—	3	3
Pneumonia .....	11	6	17
Bronchitis .....	19	5	24
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	—	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	1	3	4
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations .....	2	3	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	1	1	2
All Other Accidents .....	4	3	7
Suicide .....	4	—	4
Homicide and Operations of War .....	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	13	18	31
ALL CAUSES .....	119	108	227

TABLE III.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1963  
(or otherwise ascertained)

DISEASES	FINAL NUMBERS AFTER CORRECTION									
	AGE PERIODS—YEARS									
	All Ages	Age Un- known	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 and over	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	48	—	—	18	30	—	—	—	1	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary .....	8	—	—	—	—	5	3	—	6	—
Tuberculosis, Other .....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Pneumonia .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	29	—	4	17	8	—	—	—	—	1
Measles .....	867	—	43	491	332	1	—	—	5	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections .....	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1
Typhoid Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers .....	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—
Food Poisoning .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery .....	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS.....	963	—	50	527	371	7	7	1	17	2

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### General—See Table III

#### Paratyphoid Fever

Early in the year a case was reported, to be followed shortly by another, and at the same time there occurred a small number of cases in Wolverhampton. No direct connection between these cases was ever established but experience in other parts of the country led us to suspect imported frozen egg used in confectionery as the source. Unfortunately, by the time the disease had declared itself and notification had been made, possibly infected batches of the suspected material had been used up. Much bigger outbreaks had taken place in other parts of the country and we considered ourselves fortunate to be so mildly affected since this disease can give rise to infections varying in severity from that of food poisoning to that of typhoid fever (the bacteria causing all three of these diseases are, in fact, related). Indeed, the attribution of a large number of cases to the source mentioned led to Government action so that all supplies of this food stuff must now be heat treated before use in foods so that this particular hazard should have been eliminated. Our cases were followed for some time until specimens indicated with reasonable certainty that the infection had been eliminated though warning was given against entering any trade involving the preparation of food. This was because the infection is usually spread through food and the tests available do not give us 100% certainty of elimination of the infection, nor can antibiotic treatment be relied upon to achieve this. However, observation of the usual rules of personal hygiene would, for all practical purposes, eliminate any hazard from a person carrying the organism.

Although the infection is normally spread through food, person to person transmission does occasionally happen. Until our second notified case had come to light, indicating the local source, we had been looking further afield. Enquiries into the first case had shown that the boy had had close contact with a cousin who had previously suffered from a prolonged illness diagnosable in retrospect as paratyphoid fever and in fact found to be infected by the paratyphoid organisms. This second boy had almost certainly become infected as part of a much larger outbreak occurring in Glasgow at the end of 1962 and also due to imported frozen egg. Person to person transmission seemed likely in this case but the occurrence of the other local case threw doubt on this so that to this day there is no way of knowing whether our first notified case formed part of the local food-borne outbreak or was in fact a secondary case from the earlier Glasgow outbreak. Fortunately all infections settled satisfactorily so that the actual source of infection was of academic importance only though at the time the problem was extremely puzzling.



## **Food Poisoning**

One case was notified during the year under review in a person working in a hospital. The clinical picture was consistent with the diagnosis but similar illness in a fellow worker occurred at such a time as to suggest that a virus infection was really responsible. However, neither food poisoning nor a virus infection could be confirmed by examination of specimens.

Two children from different families were at different times notified as suffering from a prolonged illness with diarrhoea due to infection by food poisoning organisms (*Salmonella* Heidelberg in one case, *Salmonella* Newport in the other). Both of these children were infants, one having become infected shortly after birth and in each case the nature of the infection had been determined only after a period of many days. In each family other children had also been infected though much less seriously. The probably unavoidable delay in notification was perhaps responsible for the impossibility in determining any likely source of infection for each case. However, these two episodes very well illustrate the liability of food poisoning organisms to cause much more serious infections in the very young than in the general population. Old people and people debilitated by other disease are also more susceptible groups.

## **Dysentery**

There were three cases of dysentery notified but only one was bacteriologically confirmed.

## **Whooping Cough**

In my last report I welcomed the low number of notifications but hesitated to make any comments thereon. This reluctance was well justified as the number of notified cases rose in 1963 to 28 and there was one death of an infant from this disease. The value of early immunisation cannot be over stressed.

## **Measles**

The bi-annual measles epidemic occurred as expected.

## **Scarlet Fever**

The number of cases was higher than has been experienced for some time but generally speaking this disease is of much less significance than it was both due to the use of antibiotics and to a lessening in virulence of the infecting organism. At the moment in Wednesfield preventive action on notification of a case is largely directed to determining whether or not any close contacts are concerned in food preparation or are nurses, midwives, etc., who might carry the

infection to susceptible persons. In the case of nursing staff the employing authority is notified and in the case of food workers employment may be temporarily stopped or restricted till negative reports are obtained on a throat swab.

### Tuberculosis

The welcome downward trend in new cases and cases under review has been maintained.

Cases on Register													
Pulmonary					.....	Male 88 (115)			Female 80 (96)				
Non-Pulmonary					.....	Male 5 (4)			Female 8 (7)				
New Cases													
1939	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	
18	28	36	16	15	15	27	33	16	13	21	11	9	

### PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

The district is, of course, served by the familiar Family Doctor, Dental and Ophtalmic services which need no further description, but there are other services designed to preserve and promote health which largely emanate from Staffordshire County Council and the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

The Chief Officer of the County Council responsible for the Health Services is Dr. G. Ramage, the County Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer. For the purpose of administering these services (other than the School Health Service) the County is divided into areas each with an Area Health Committee served by an Area Medical Officer. Wednesfield is in No. 9 area, the Area Medical Officer being Dr. H. A. H. Summers—offices, 20 Hydes Road, Wednesbury (Tel. Wednesbury 0961). Some features of the services as experienced locally are :—

**School Health Services** include periodical examination of school children, provision of immunisation facilities, specialist examination and/or treatment of disease of the ear, nose and throat, dental and ophthalmic clinics, and also speech therapy and physiotherapy clinics. The well equipped dental suite in the new combined clinic in Alfred Squire Road has proved a great boon to children and expectant mothers.

**Maternity Services.** By the year's end the number of midwives practising in the district had increased to 6, a most welcome increase, whether viewed from the standpoint of the mothers or the midwives



themselves, though the need to help out elsewhere did not enable the full benefit of this increase to be felt. Ante-natal clinics were held weekly during the year at the new clinic in Alfred Squire Road and at Guest Avenue and Olinthus Avenue clinics. The midwives work with the Family Doctor and with local authority doctors attending at the clinics and in addition to caring for the mothers and babies before and during labour and during the lying-in period are responsible for providing reports on the domestic circumstances of those expectant mothers whose domestic circumstances might provide grounds for hospital confinement. Hospital confinement can also be arranged for those cases where there are particular medical indications. However, during the year under review the proportion of hospital confinements again was considerably less than experienced nationally and less than many medical authorities have considered desirable. No doubt this situation will have to be endured until there are more maternity beds available.

**Health Visitors** are very important members of the health team and there were three practising full time in Wednesfield at the end of the year. This represented a decrease in this section of staff but there has been welcome assistance in other directions from school nurses or from part time workers. Health Visitors work in homes, schools and clinics and although their duties are multifarious their function is primarily an advisory and supervisory one. Their work in Wednesfield was concerned mainly with babies and children and mothers.

**Infant Welfare Clinics** continued to be held weekly during the year at Alfred Squire Road, Guest Avenue, Olinthus Avenue and the temporary clinic at Ashmore Park. These clinics were attended by Health Visitors and local authority doctors. Examinations were made, problems explored, immunisations given, welfare foods distributed. Matters of serious import requiring prompt medical attention are, of course, found in these clinics but it must not be forgotten that there are many problems of lesser importance in themselves, e.g., feeding problems, which can seriously undermine a proper mother-child relationship unless promptly put right.

**Home Nursing** is carried out by District Nurses working in the home on a wide variety of duties under the general direction of the Family Doctors.

**A Day Nursery** in Wednesfield has 26 places for the children of mothers who work (usually through necessity) or who are temporarily or permanently handicapped in the matter of properly caring for their children.



**Immunisation** against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and smallpox was carried out by Family Doctors as agents of the County Council and, the same services were provided in schools and infant welfare clinics. I welcome the restarting of smallpox vaccination in the County Clinics.

**Home Helps** and neighbourly helps continued to provide valuable assistance in the home for the acute and chronically ill, the infirm, expectant mothers and other groups in need.

**Ambulances** were provided mainly from local stations, the nearest being at Darlaston, from where a 24-hour service was operated with overall radio control from the Tipton station.

**Hospitals and Clinics** for the immediate area and most convenient for Wednesfield residents are :—

GENERAL

Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.  
New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.

EYE DISEASES

Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Moxley Isolation Hospital, Bilston.  
Parkfields Hospital, Wolverhampton.  
Kingswinford Isolation Hospital.

MATERNITY

New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.  
Women's Hospital, Wolverhampton.

CHEST CLINIC

Bell Street, Wolverhampton.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC

Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

**OTHER CONTRIBUTING SERVICES**

The Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford, is used by General Practitioners, Local Authorities and Hospitals for a great variety of bacteriological, virological and serological examinations and its assistance in investigating outbreaks of infectious diseases is invaluable.

The County Analyst and his staff, also at Stafford, are responsible for analyses of a great variety of chemicals and foods and are often of great assistance to local authorities, including that of the Urban District.

## **WELFARE SERVICES**

The Council has for a long time been interested in various welfare problems and their increasing participation in this field made possible by an increase of powers under the National Assistance Act (Amendment) Act, 1961, justifies the opening of a separate section for the description and review of these services.

### **Meals on Wheels**

This valuable scheme commenced in February with a (normally) twice weekly delivery of a maximum of 18 meals for one round. Demand was at first small but more needy cases being brought to light from a variety of sources gradually reached the full capacity of the service before the year's end so that consideration was being given to expanding the round.

Nominations for the service were accepted from any source including the old persons themselves and I myself was appointed arbiter to determine the degree of need. A great variety of medical and social circumstances were encountered and it was clearly impossible to lay down any strict definition of a needy case. Most of the recipients were old age pensioners but this is by no means an essential qualification and younger people also received meals. I myself found it very instructive to see at first hand the problems and circumstances of the many people referred to me and I found it particularly heartening to see how many people were already receiving assistance, through the Home Help service particularly. Indeed, many cases were referred to me by the Home Helps themselves, Health Visitors, Council staff (particularly rent collectors) and relatives having been the source of many others, though smaller numbers have been referred from other health and welfare services and private individuals.

The meals have generally been obtained through the school meals service though on one occasion a local factory provided them and on another Wolverhampton W.V.S. They have been very much appreciated by the recipients and although generally the meals are as provided in schools I know that where the food allows, kitchen staff have modified them to the tastes of old people. For these meals the old people pay 1s. 0d. the rest of the cost being met by the District Council and the County in equal proportions, as they share also the costs of other equipment and services.

### **Luncheon Clubs**

With meals on wheels successfully launched the possibility of starting luncheon clubs in the district came up for consideration later in the year. These clubs would be held in premises to serve a particular district to which the old would come once or twice a week for a meal in the company of others. It may be that in the next annual report the coming into operation of such a service might be recorded.



## **HOUSING, HEALTH AND WELFARE**

(BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE HOUSING MANAGER, Mr. I. J. PATTERSON, A.I.Housing).

### **Accommodation for elderly persons, provided in conjunction with the County Council**

Good progress was made during the year, with the erection of 12 old aged pensioners bungalows and a flatlet block containing 26 bed-sitter flatlets for aged persons. By the end of the year, the flatlet block was not completed, but the bungalows were allocated and let during December, 1963. This scheme, at Hodson Close, Ashmore Park Estate, included provision for the appointment of a Warden, and one of the bungalows was used temporarily as accommodation for the person appointed.

The bungalow section of the Hodson Close Scheme has proved to be a popular form of accommodation with the elderly people who have gone there.

### **Transfers and Exchanges**

During 1963, 90 transfers were done, and 141 mutual exchanges took place. Of this total of 231 movements, many were carried out on account of medical factors and on welfare grounds.

### **Housing Accommodation in general**

It can be fairly stated that during the year, there was a lessening of the unpopularity of the Ashmore Park Estate, though there is still a marked disinclination on the part of Slum Clearance Families and aged persons to accept accommodation on this particular Estate. There was, for example, less demand than anticipated, except from persons already living upon the estate, for the bungalow accommodation provided during the year, and referred to above.

### **Medical Certificates**

A considerable number of medical certificates were received both from housing waiting list applicants, and from existing tenants, during the year. Whilst all certificates received were very carefully considered by the Council's Medical Officer of Health, very few necessitated any outright priority recommendation.

It was observed that many tenants and applicants produced medical certificates or letters in an effort to gain priority for their particular cases, but it is felt better that this should be accepted rather than discouraged, in order to avoid possibly overlooking a worthy case or cases.



## **SLUM CLEARANCE, SMOKE CONTROL**

Details of activities in these fields and in the field of housing repairs and improvements, food hygiene, pest control, etc., etc., will be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES**

### **Mains Water Supply**

The following information is based on a report supplied by the Water Engineer, Mr. W. C. Johnson, M.I.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.W.E., of the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking, on the mains water supply to the district for the year ending 31st December, 1963.

#### **“Sources of Supply**

River Water	.....	River Worfe, Cosford.
Boreholes	.....	Cosford, Tettenhall, Dimmingsdale, Hilton, Bratch, Tom Hill, Rindleford and Neachley.

#### **Distributed Water**

1. The water supply to the area has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.
2. Bacteriological analyses of the water have proved satisfactory.
3. There has been no known contamination of the distributed water.
4. The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.
5. The fluoride content of the water supply falls within the range 0.02 to 0.12 parts per million of fluorine.”

(For comparison the level of fluoride aimed at in fluoridation schemes for combating tooth decay is one part per million).

#### **Wells**

A few deep wells are still in use in Wednesfield, all but one in the Sandpits area, and are sampled from time to time to ensure their wholesomeness.

#### **Sewage Disposal**

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor of the Urban District, Mr. T. A. Peacock, M.I.Mun.E., Cert.B.I., for the following report on sewage and sewage disposal for the year ending 31st December, 1963.

The sewage disposal works at both the high level and low level sections are overloaded and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have approved a scheme for the extension of the sewage disposal works and also the sewerage of the Neachells Lane Industrial Estate. The completion of these schemes will provide capacity of the works for the total estimated flows up to 1971. It is expected that the contracts will be let about September 1964 and is estimated to take some two years.

The increased flows over a 10 year period are given below and it is interesting to note the flows as against the population of 1953 at 18,250 and 1963 at 34,730.

	1953	1963
1. Total Flow—Gallons	348,242,400	498,662,000
2. Daily Flow Treated—Gallons	795,096	1,316,193
3. Through Storm Water Tanks	57,942,400	26,122,000
4. Grit and Screening extracted	151	344 $\frac{1}{4}$
5. Total amount of Sludge	3,132	6,993
6. Rainfall in inches	21.01	22.78
7. Percentage of Purification	51.90	78.65

### Sewerage

During the year contracts have been let and work was in progress at the end of the year on the connection of 14 houses in Noose Lane to the Willenhall sewer. In the same contract, the provision of a pumping station and sewers was in progress to drain some 16 properties at Fibbersley to the Willenhall sewers.

A scheme was prepared to relieve flooding at the northern western part of the district near Cannock Road and this was expected to commence and be completed during the ensuing year.

A flood relief overflow sewer was also being designed in the Graiseley Lane area and it was expected that this would be completed during the ensuing year.

In September 1963 construction was completed at the Foul Relief sewer on the eastern area main drainage at an estimated cost being some £30,000.

## MISCELLANY

### Registrar

The following are the times and places where the District Registrar, Mr. A. T. Cook, may be seen each week :—

MONDAY	.....	10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Hall Street, Bilston. Calves Croft, Willenhall.
TUESDAY	.....	10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Bilston. 20 Bolton Road, Wednesfield.
WEDNESDAY		10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Bilston. Willenhall.
THURSDAY	.....	10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Bilston.
FRIDAY	.....	10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Bilston. Wednesfield.
SATURDAY	.....	10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Bilston.

The information given above is correct at the time of writing.

### National Assistance Act 1948

Under Section 47 of this Act and subsequent amendments there are given powers for the removal to hospitals or welfare homes of persons fulfilling rather stringent criteria of need and yet who refuse to go. The class of person most concerned is the elderly in a deteriorated mental or physical state, living in squalid conditions, though others might also fall within the prescribed category. Requests to consider removal of such persons are from time to time received from the General Practitioner and relatives but although in some instances many of the conditions were met with it has not yet proved necessary to invoke the powers of removal in this district. It should be understood that the power given is to overcome the objection of the person concerned and does not compel a hospital or other institution to provide a suitable place so that a suitable place has first to be found before any action can be taken. Further, where there is clear medical need and the person concerned is not raising any objection or is incapable of raising any objection then the normal procedures for admission to be arranged between the hospital and General Practitioner services should be used.



### **Disposal of Post-Confinement Debris**

The first full year of operation of this service showed that it was much appreciated (details were given in last year's report). There is beginning to be a rising demand for a similar service in other parts and great interest is being shown by midwives, medical officers of health and last, but not least, the manufacturers of paper bags.

The need for special arrangements for disposal of soiled dressings and disposable incontinence pads has also been raised in various quarters and may merit further consideration.

### **Medical Examinations**

Eighteen persons were examined by the Medical Officer of Health during the year for superannuation purposes or to determine their general fitness for the work for which they had been chosen.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1963

**To the Chairman and Members of the  
Public Health Committee**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. DAVIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is again my pleasure to present to you my report of the activities of the Health Inspectorate during the year 1963.

Wednesfield has continued to develop, private construction continuing, Council house construction recommencing during the year after a lapse of time due to land acquisition difficulties, industry and commerce modernising their buildings and plant.

The rebuilding of the High Street and the development of the shopping area attracting as it has done the major banks to the centre is a 'barometer' of the 'change' in the Urban District and thereby an acknowledgment of its development.

During the year a new mortuary was opened bringing forth comments that 'they house the dead better than some of the living.' These comments depict the high standard that has been built into the mortuary and such building was acclaimed as the 'last thing' in such construction.

In the early part of the year steady progress was continuing in the implementation of smoke control areas under the Clean Air Act 1956. Circular 69/63 coupled with the White Paper on 'Domestic fuel supplies and the clean air policy' from the Ministry of Power caused consternation among local authorities as to the availability of solid smokeless fuel with the Ministry recommending the greater use of piped and wired fuel supplies.

On reflection one wonders whether the issue of these documents were panic measures by the Ministries concerned being out of touch with the available fuels position or whether it was as a stimulant to the suppliers of solid smokeless fuel to press on with the increased production proving to them that smoke control must continue and that there would be an available market for all solid smokeless fuel so produced.

It is patent in this country that only limited progress is made with any venture such as clean air unless and until there is legislation to enforce it and the will revealed of making such legislation effective.

Thus commercial producers are then prepared to cater for a market which they know is available, a logical economic deduction.

Detailed observations on various sectional activities are included in the body of the report. One must, however, make mention of problems arising in connection with dealing with itinerants who in time past have invaded the district in large numbers and have latterly been reduced to smaller colonies. Time and time again the area they use has been 'sealed' by trenching or soil mounding to obviate their coming again to the same site. Contact has been made with land owners in this connection to overcome difficulties arising.

One is here reminded that a responsibility was placed upon County Councils in respect to implementation of Circular 7/62 issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for research into the problem of finding accommodation sites for the itinerant people, with little result as yet.

Problems also continue in respect to mobile vehicles who outside the Shops Act ought to be embraced by such Act and made to conform to its requirements (ambiguous as they are) in fair comparison to those who are static shop keepers.

It is ridiculous that an officer is put in the iniquitous position of moving to prosecute a static shop keeper for sales outside the orbit of the Shops Act, i.e., evenings and Sundays, whereas mobile vehicles are completely free of this control.

This anomaly ought to be removed at the earliest moment.

The revision of the Shops Act is under discussion and one feels that such matters should be dealt with in comprehensive legislation, alternatively the Ministry should implement Section 22 of the Food and Drugs Act to permit local authorities to register and have full knowledge of all the traders who are operating in their district so that 'unknowns' are made to conform with all requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 as well as those who are known and operate in normal hours of trading.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I feel the following pages will show a record of quiet progress and I would express my thanks to you and the Committee for their valuable help and support throughout the year, to my colleagues and particularly my staff whose help and co-operation have been evident throughout the year, my grateful thanks.

I am yours obediently,

P. H. G. GRIMMETT,  
*Chief Public Health Inspector.*



**Sanitary Improvements carried out as a result of Inspections and  
Notices served, both Informal and Statutory**

**Dwelling Houses**

Doors, flue openings repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Plasterwork repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Roofs repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Eaves gutters repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Floors repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Chimney heads, flues repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Brickwork repaired, repointed	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Sash cords, fasteners renewed, windows repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Firegrates repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Stucco work repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Rubbish removed	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Fencing and gates renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cold water storage tank	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Provision of fuel storage accommodation	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Staircases repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

**Water Closets, Wash-houses, etc.**

W.C. cisterns renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
W.C. Pedestals renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Sink Waste Pipes renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

**Drainage**

Obstructed drains cleared	.....	.....	.....	.....	134
Rain water downpipes repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Inspection chambers covers renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Drainage altered or repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Bath wastes repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Soil Pipes connections made good	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Water Pipes repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
New Sinks provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Ventilation Pipes repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

**Letters and Notices sent out**

Preliminary Notices	.....	.....	.....	.....	47
Statutory Notices	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Letters (all works)	.....	.....	.....	.....	670

**Work in Default**

3 cases of default action were necessary during the year involving repairs to properties resulting in a total cost of £250 of work. Account awaited.

**Statutory Notices sent out**

Section 9, Housing Act, 1957	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Section 10, Housing Act, 1957	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

**House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959**

10 Applications for Standard Grants were made under the above Act for investigation by the department, in all cases for providing the 5 standard amenities by the installation of hot water supply, fixed bath or shower and wash basin, provision of water closet or relocation, and installation of larder.

**Rent Act, 1957**

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair (1)	.....	.....	3
Granted	.....	.....	2
Refused	.....	.....	1
Undertakings received	.....	.....	1
Undertakings accepted	.....	.....	1
Repairs completed	.....	.....	3
Certificates of Disrepair issued (L)	.....	.....	1

**Infectious Diseases, Disinfection and Disinfestation**

Infectious disease cases which occurred within the district during 1963 necessitated 3 visits in this connection, appropriate disinfection being carried out upon removal to hospital or termination of infective period. In all 98 sprayings were carried out including 16 for wood-worm, 43 for ants, 1 for gnats, 5 for cockroaches, 6 for silverfish, 1 for bugs, 3 for fleas, 3 for red mite, 1 for pool, 8 prior to demolition, 2 for spiders, 1 for wasps, 3 for insects, 4 for black beetles and 1 for flats chute. Power blower spraying has been carried out regularly in the Ashmore Park Tip area and has been very successful in controlling cricket infestations.

**Public Health Act, 1936, Section 154**

Observations were maintained on Rag and Bone Merchants moving in your district, in regard to exchanging articles with children under 15 years. No offences noted.

**Water Sampling**

Two well water samples taken during the year revealed a satisfactory return, these being deep wells still in operation on the Sandpits Area.

## HOUSING ACT, 1957

### Section 9

Notices Served	.....	.....	4
Outstanding 31.12.63	.....	.....	Nil

### Section 10

One case involving 3 properties in a block.

### Section 76—Overcrowding

7 visits were made in this connection and normal overcrowding is now almost non-existent in this area. Coloured people occupy some 80 houses in this district, 12 being statutorily overcrowded at 31.12.63. The new Housing Act increase our powers in this direction. (*See Houses in multi-occupation*).

## REPORT ON SLUM CLEARANCE ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR

Following the passing of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act in 1954 and further to the official Ministerial Circular dated 6th September, 1955 your agreed Slum Clearance Programme Return was made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government under Section 1 of the Act indicating step by step how Wednesfield's Substandard Houses were to be dealt with.

588 Properties were included in your Section 1 Return which did not include Town Centre Development Properties. To date the following 170 properties remain to be dealt with, most of which are included in your Comprehensive Development Area upon which there are now 3 confirmed Compulsory Purchase Orders and within which a further order is with the Ministry involving some 140 premises in all.

What I regret to report is that at year end no new development had commenced—until bricks and mortar are on the site this spade-work though very necessary, offers no reward or hope for those still left in the area.

During the year some 84 houses have been brought to your notice as unfit for human habitation.

Remaining to be dealt with are :—

#### Individually Unfit

				Total 18
"Glenview," Noose Lane	.....	.....	.....	1965 Subject to reinspection
1 Noose Lane	.....	.....	.....	—do—
"Rose Cottage," "Grasmere"	.....	.....	.....	—do—
"Meadow View," "Georges"	.....	.....	.....	—do—
"Trentham Cottage," Watery Lane	.....	.....	.....	—do—
Wood Hayes Farm	.....	.....	.....	—do—
26-28 March End Road	.....	.....	.....	—do—
Evans Bungalow, Moat House Lane	.....	.....	.....	—do—
449-451 Lichfield Road	.....	.....	.....	—do—
1 and 2 Bungalow, Fibbersley	.....	.....	.....	—do—
Castlebridge Canal Cottage	.....	.....	.....	—do—



**Clearance Area Proposed**

2-8, 1-5, Well Lane—(7)

**Total 7**

1964 (about to be submitted)

**Comprehensive Development Area**

Grand Total of property to be dealt with

**Total 145** (24 belong to U.D.C.)

The programme is still some 18 months behind schedule, some 41 families being displaced during 1963 bring a grand total of 293 units displaced, an average of 37 per year since rehousing from the Slum Clearance point of view commenced in 1956.

During the year 2 new areas were submitted to the Minister. I detail information for your perusal on outstanding areas.

<i>No. of Area</i>	<i>Submitted</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Ministry App.</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Demolished</i>
Lichfield Road No. 2	28.1.59	5	Acquisition by negotiation	80%	—
Wood End No. 5 (Clearance Order)	29.4.59	14	Yes	90%	80%
Hickman Street No. 3 (Comp. Purchase)	25.2.62	45	Yes	95%	30%
Wood End No. 7 (Clearance Order)	16.7.62	7	Yes (except Noah's Ark)	100%	100%
Wood End No. 8 (Clearance Order)	25.7.62	8	Yes	80%	10%
Hadleys Fold (Open Market) C.P.O.	29.9.62	5	Yes	95%	—
Lichfield Road No. 3-4 (Clearance Order)	20.11.63	14	Awaited	10%	10%
New Street No. 1 (Comp. Purchase)	30.10.63	54	Awaited	10%	

Rehousing is now well under way in approved parcels. However, the one big source of difficulty still remaining is the small workshops scattered among the Central Development Area unfit dwellings, and the moral obligation to secure alternative small plots for these men whose personnel consist mainly of "twilight" part-timers who live near to the workshops. Remove this constant source of appeal, which usually leads to ENQUIRY at local level, thus holding up major schemes, and you will clear the way to full scale development on modern lines and thus remove the greater portion of sub-standard dwellings still in Wednesfield's district.

**Precautions before demolition**

48 dwellings were thoroughly disinfested, such treatment proving a highly successful prelude to the demolition, closure or removal of tenants.

## HOUSING ACT, 1961

### Houses in Multi-Occupation

The extensive survey carried out towards the end of 1962 showed a total of 52 multi-occupied properties, this figure, however, has now increased gradually throughout the year to 64 houses. All houses have received a regular visit to ensure that conditions do not get out of hand.

Generally co-operation with owners of such properties has been good and it has only been necessary in four instances to serve Direction Orders limiting the number of occupants. It is fully anticipated, however, that more will have to be served as the number of properties increase.

11 Notices in accordance with Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1961 were served for the provision of a fire escape. None of these notices were enforced, however, because undertakings were received from all owners that attic rooms would be vacated thereby removing the need for an escape. This in fact did happen. Constant supervision is maintained to ensure that the rooms are not occupied again.

It was not found necessary to serve any Management Orders as yet.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

### Food Sampling

The following analysis is of milk and food samples taken in the Wednesfield district by Staffordshire County Council.

#### Milk

T.T. (Pasteurised)	.....	.....	11
Pasteurised	.....	.....	5
Sterilised	.....	.....	4
TOTAL			20 <i>All genuine</i>

#### General Foods

Number of Samples Taken	.....	66
Number of Samples Genuine	.....	60
Number of Samples Adulterated		6

## Classification of General Foods

Beans in Tomato Sauce	Pork Sausage with Preservative (6 samples)
Garden Peas	Stewed Steak in rich grravy
Curried Chicken with Rice	Mint Sauce
Irish Stew	Ginger Marmalade
Instant Porridge	Tripe and Onions
Cheese and Piccallili Spread	Cubed Beef Steak
Cheeses	Asparagus Soup
Minced Beef Loaf	Quinnine Tonic Water
Blackberries in Light Syrup	Butter (2 samples)
Fishfinger (2 Samples)	Lemon Cream Biscuits
Fishsticks	Apple Sauce with added sugar
Chop Sauce	Sunny Spread
Beef Steak with gravy	Salad Cream
Chicken and Ham Luncheon Meat	Deep browned Beans
Pork Picnic Meat	Mix for gravy
Table Jelly—Brandy	Lemon Squash
Instant Coffee (3 samples)	Lard
Liver Pate	Jelly Babies
Onion Flavoured Biscuits	Spongettes
Macaroni Cheese	Creamed Rice Milk Pudding
Coffee Flavoured Night Cap	Buttered Toast
Pork Dripping	Mixed Spice
Lemon Glucoze Drink	Glace Cherries
Tomato Piquant	Sherry
Pineapple Pie Filling	Pineapple Juice
Milk Chocolate Globes	Spiced Pork and Beef
Fish Paste—Lobster	Butter Puffs
Cream British Sherry	Peas Pudding
Corn Oil	

## Particulars of Adulterated Samples

80 C/A—Pork Sausage with Preservative	
6.4% defficient of its proper proportion of meat.	Caution. Noted for further samples.
85 C/A—Cubed Beef Steak—Formal	
Contains an ingredient, namely, Wheat Flour which is not included in list of of ingredients.	Unsold Stock returned to Shippers Agents.
94 C/B—Fish Fingers—Formal	
9.1% deficient of its proper proportion of fish.	Left in abeyance while further samples are procured.



95 C/B—Fish Fingers—Formal

6.1% deficient of its proper proportion of fish.	Left in abeyance while further samples are procured.
--	--

49 C/D—Beef Steak with gravy—Formal

17.1% deficient of its proper proportion of meat.	Withdrawn from sale.
---	----------------------

72 C/E—Buttered Toast—Formal

Sold to the prejudice of the purchaser a certain food, mainly buttered toast, which was not of the substance demanded by the purchaser, in that the fatty spread portion of the food sold contained no significant amount of butter and that it consisted of margarine or or some similar product.	Fined £5 on 2 charges at Tettenhall Petty Sessions 31.10.63 with £5. 5s. costs.
--	---

Licensed Premises

The 34 licensed premises within the district have been visited during the year, such visits resulting in 2 Informal Notices and the following improvements having been carried out.

Limewashing of cellars	.....	.....	1
General Decoration	.....	.....	2
Ventilation and Lighting to W.C's	.....		1
Drainage Repair	.....	.....	2

No Notices were outstanding at the end of the year which indicates the degree of co-operation which exists with the Breweries concerned. I am pleased to comment on this point and would say that in the case of the three new or rebuilt clubs, the standards achieved were of the highest order and full consultation took place in all stages of construction.

Mobile Vehicles

These continue to poach on new housing estates and are now an accepted way of life for the harassed housewife, opinion being expressed that these are providing a need for the families not near shops. This argument falling to the ground when such mobile vehicles park in front of the shops and trade in such positions. The difficulty of lack of registration and control does not help the trading atmosphere of the district generally and mitigates strongly against economics where highly rented, static premises must undoubtedly suffer.

I feel the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is continuing his short sighted outlook toward this problem in not producing legislation for mobile vehicle control by placing the registration squarely into the hands of the Local Authority in which they trade. Lack of uniformity by authorities continues to impede a progressive approach to this subject.

### **Clean Air Act, 1956**

A further smoke control order came into operation at the end of the year, the fifth such order to receive Ministerial approval. This brought a further 1,017 premises under Smoke Control, covered an area of 100 acres and meant that after 4 years 25% of the Urban District was covered by operative orders.

Such welcome progress was somewhat nullified by Circular 69/63 of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the publicity given thereto. This circular was obviously prompted by several Gas Board decisions, piping of natural gas from the Sahara, development of its Lurgi plant and closure of several major gas production works. Albeit the Board wish to produce a better service to its customers, indeed they have advanced technically in the many spheres of production, but their once useless bye-product gas coke must diminish in supply as this reorganisation spreads.

The production of Coalite, Rexco and Homefire is still inadequate to meet heavy demand but the Coal Board's Sunbrite is readily obtainable locally, for use on closed stoves and underfloor draught fires.

The obvious costs involved in replacement of unsatisfactory appliances will show in future orders to be made if one takes Circular 69/63 in the spirit that it is given. I look at the Exchequer Contribution of No. 5 area—a mere £1,500 and quietly envisage the claim which may have to be met when I submit my next order, for if one also looks at programmes submitted for England and Wales 1962-66 there must be a next order, proceed with caution must be the maxim—not put up the shutters altogether.

Don't let us "contract out," better to tread carefully towards what must inevitably be the aim of all—Clean Air.

One can look back on a year of progress in the Industrial field. Alkali Inspectorate efforts led to an air of quiet confidence in fume arrestment from Bessemer convertors and smelting processes in the district. A Zinc Oxide recovery plant now collects 95% of effluent from a scrap metal melting plant by the doubling of the size of its bag filtration house. A local steel works has replaced its Cold Blast

Cupolas with modern wet washing hoods and venturi scrubbing at another works, with 120 ft. stack for aerial dissemination of phosphorous fumes has considerably enhanced the purity of the air of the district. We do, however, look with some concern to a new housing project within half mile of a local steel works (who have the problem of fume arrestment from a steel conversion) which project includes the building of 20 storey blocks of flats. An industrial project in the same vicinity when considering plans for a new aluminium recovery plant took this into account by producing on plan a 120 ft. stack with fans to assist thermal lift of the efflux above this height.

A programme of conversion to overfire jet installation on sectional heating boilers with underfeed stokers at local schools has begun—these schools being in approved or submitted Smoke Control Areas.

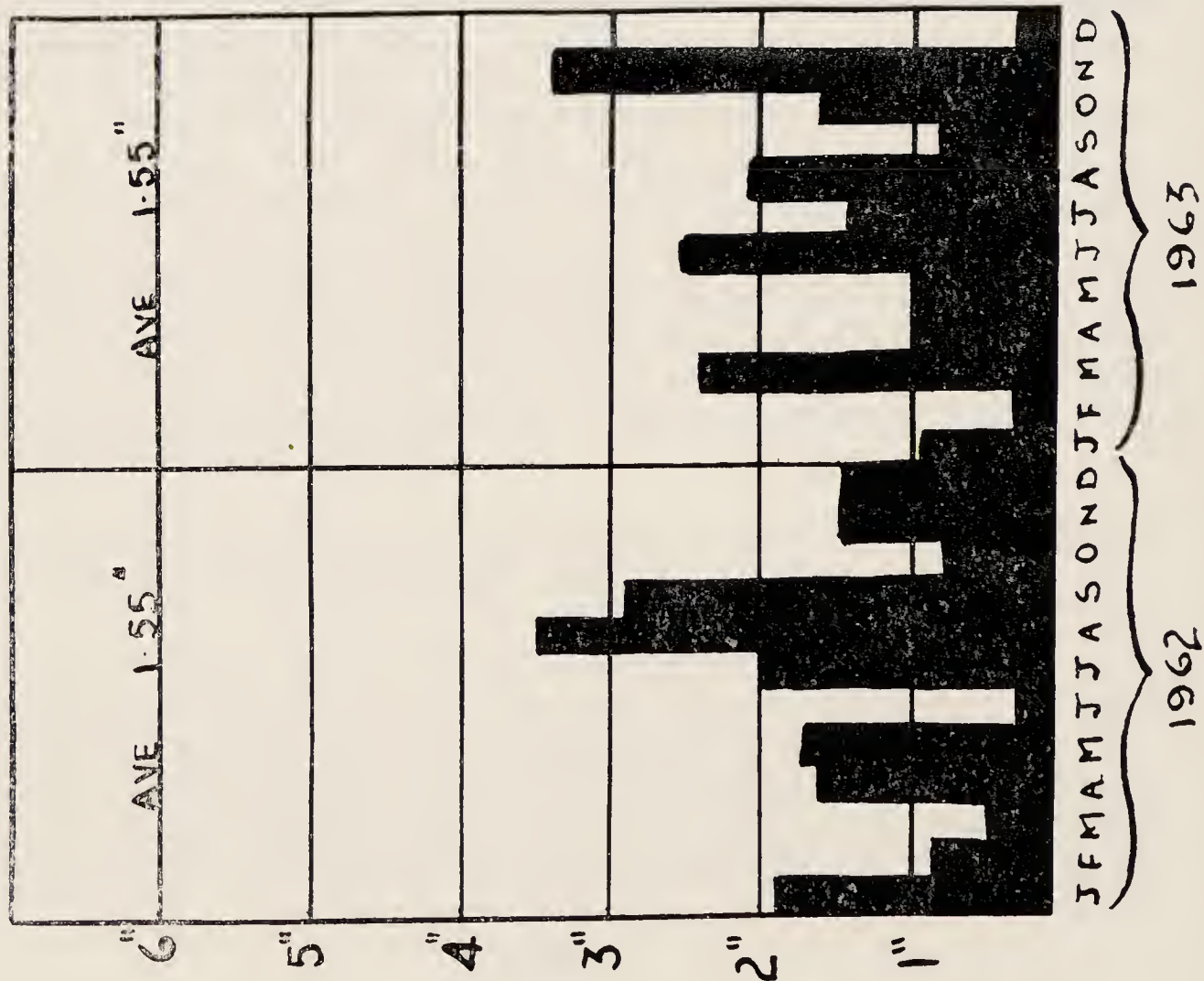
New factories or extensions on our industrial site all conform to Clean Air standards, prior approval being the useful medium of liaison between Industry, the Architect and Health Inspector.

The memorandum on Chimney Heights published this year and formulated by combined efforts of men like Sutton, the late Ron Williams, Nonhebel and Bosanquet has given us a yard stick second to none—unless one looks for difficulties—and in its form will undoubtedly prove invaluable in dealing with ground level concentrations of Sulphur di Oxide, a natural product of combustion.

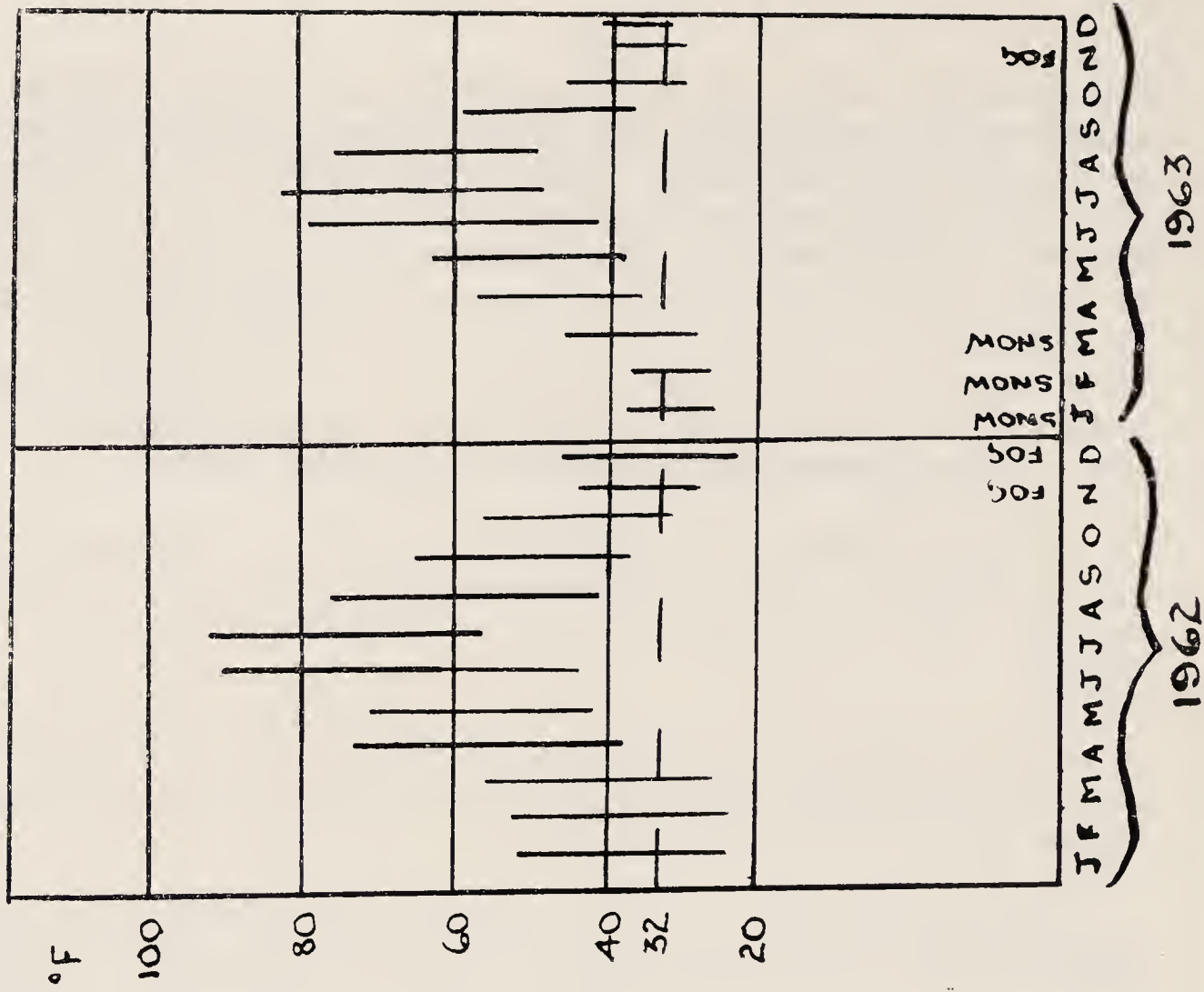
Four cases of contravention of Smoke Control Orders were reported and in all cases strong warning letters were sent.



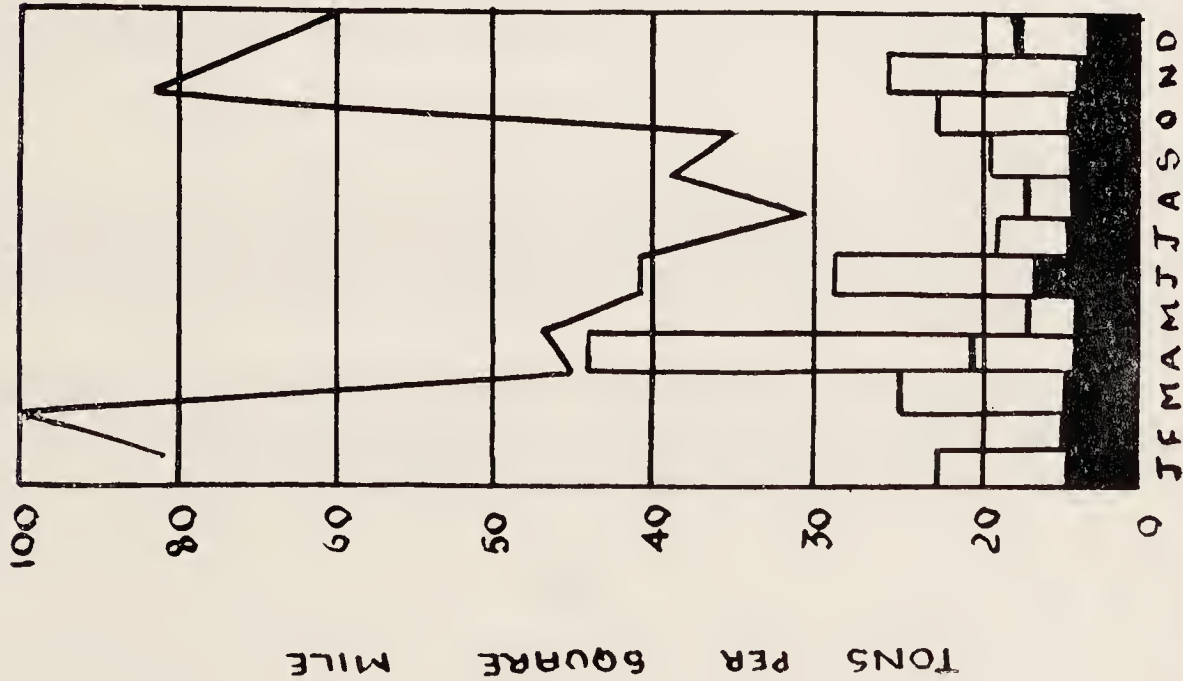
# RAINFALL



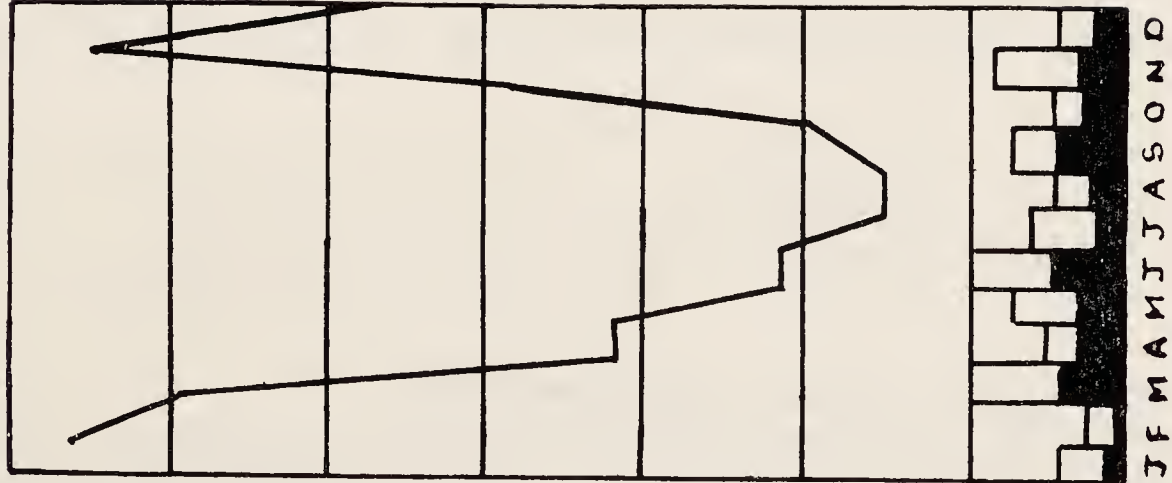
# WEATHER CONDITIONS



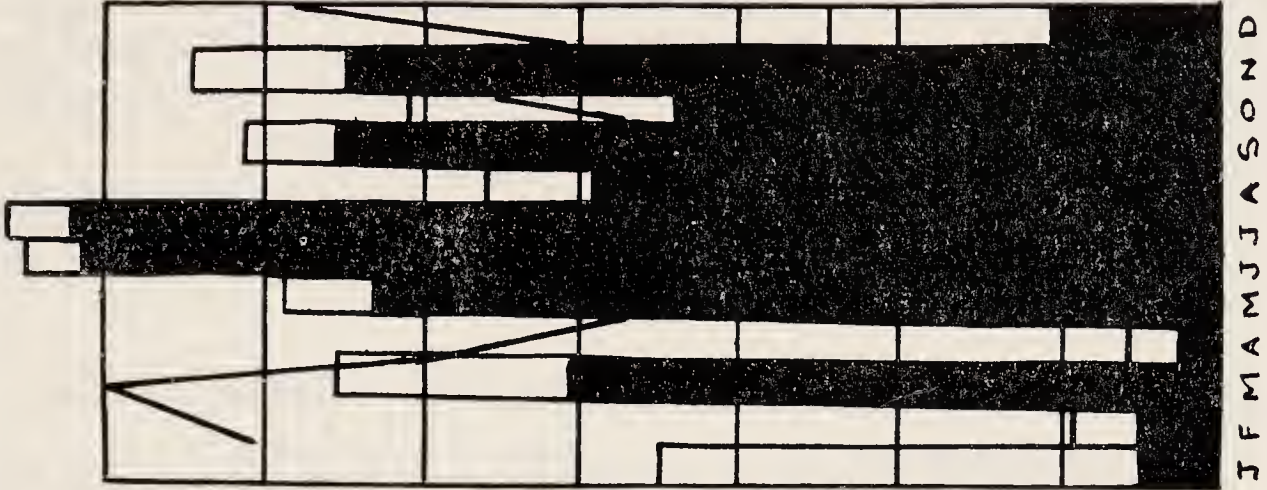
# ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION 1963



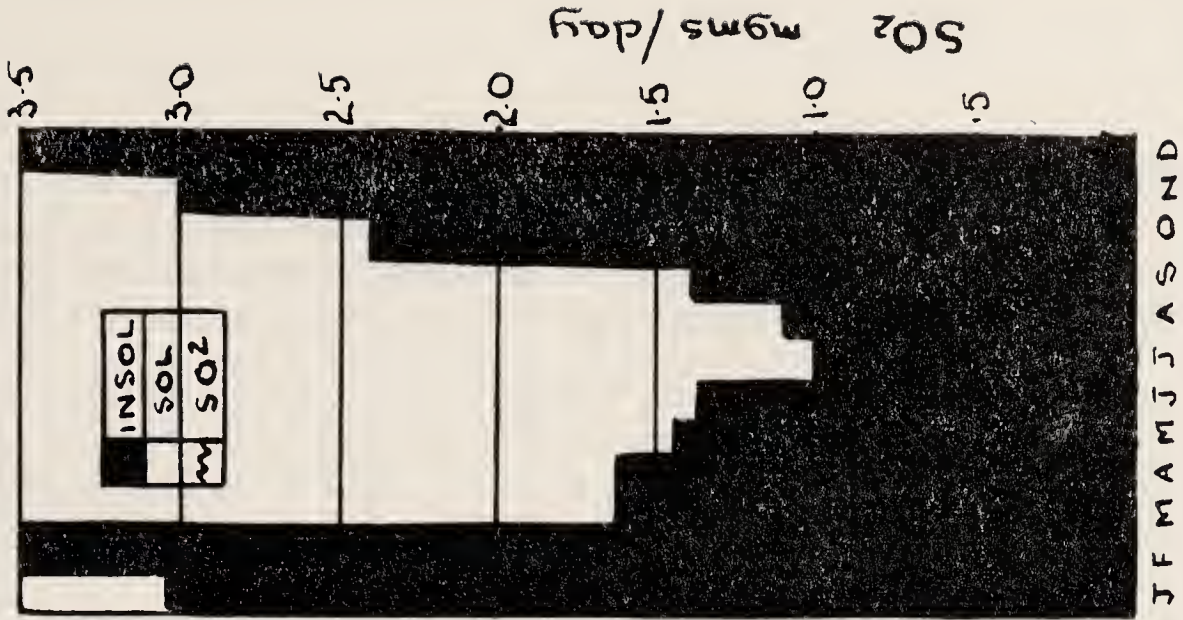
SITE 2  
(274 tons)



SITE 3  
(169 tons)



SITE 3  
(169 tons)



SITE 4  
(882 tons)



## Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Six complaints were dealt with during the period and in five cases strong warning letters were sent. One other case was not justified even after nightly vigils until the small hours were necessitated.

A further case, taken by the police, after complaint is worth placing on record. It occurred at 1.50 p.m., involved amplified chimes on an Ice Cream Vendors mobile vehicle. On the particular estate in question some 15 mobile traders use chimes to indicate their presence in the area.

In this case, although after 12 midday, "excessive use" formed the basis of complaint and a summons was duly taken out. The case was proved and drew a £3 fine. This and other facts were reported to the widely circulated Q.P. journal for the benefit of other authorities who suffer from "unreasonable and persistent" chimers.

The before 12 after 7 rule led to some confusion of interpretation and the above case served materially to extend the scope of the intention of the Act.

<b>Type of Food Shops in the Urban District</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>172</b>
Grocers	.....	75
Greengrocers	.....	32
Butchers	.....	27
Sweets and Confectionery	.....	9
Cafes	.....	4
Fish and Chip Saloons	.....	6
Fishmongers	.....	8
Off-Licences	.....	4
Chemists	.....	6
Bakery	.....	1

## Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Regular inspections were maintained throughout the year, the general standard remaining high. It was not found necessary for the service of any notices, but it was found necessary to issue verbal warnings in regard to smoking offences and to not wearing proper protective clothing.

## Meat Inspection

Once again as in 1962 100% meat inspection was maintained, meeting as far as practicable Ministry standards as detailed in Memo 3 (Meat).

Tuberculosis was again absent throughout the year. One case of cysticerous bovis was discovered. A total of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  cwt. of meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption.



It is to be reported that the kill during the year was considerably below that of previous years. This was due to the fact that the slaughterhouse closed in August for extensive alterations and improvements deemed necessary by the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations 1958 and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958. The Appointed day being 1st October 1963. Work was still being carried out at the end of the year but it was anticipated that slaughtering could recommence early in the new year.

On the 1st October the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, came into operation making the practise of meat inspection a statutory obligation. The Regulations further provide that a Local Authority may make a charge for meat inspection and that all meat inspected and passed must be marked in an approved manner with a stamp that can be readily identified with the inspector who has inspected the carcase. However, in view of the fact that the slaughterhouse closed before the implementation of the Regulations it is not possible at this juncture to make comment upon them.

## **Food and Drugs Act, 1955**

### **Food not of the Nature, or Substance or Quality Demanded**

Several cases arose during the year which necessitated report to Health Committees and the general summary is appended herewith :—

1. Bread Rolls—mould growth.

Investigations revealed a lack of rotational sale, although it could not be decided whether it was the supplier or the shopkeeper who was at fault.

2. Sliced Loaf—containing string and hessian cloth.

Although stringent precautions are taken by the bakery concerned it was obvious that an operative had deviated from the normal routine thus causing the offence to be committed.

3. Ox Tongue—containing rusted pin.

An unusual reluctance was shown by the manufacturer in this instance when approached for an explanation of the possible cause. However, it appeared that the pin may have penetrated the tongue when in the live animal.

4. Frozen Chicken—offensive odour.

The odour was due to the commencement of decomposition following a lack of rotational sale.

5. Meat Pastie—mould.

Sale of this pastie led to a court action as this was the second offence on which the retailer had defaulted. The offence was admitted, no reasonable explanation being forthcoming. The Magistrate's Court fined the retailer £8 with costs.

6. Pears—decomposed.

This case arose out of the sale of "speckled" fruit at half price to a child. This is a practice that is fortunately dying out as fruiterers realise that the sale of such fruit is an offence.

7. Pearl Barley—infected with Grain Weevil.

No explanation could be given for this occurrence, it being "just one of those things."

8. Camphorated Oil—sold in lieu of olive oil.

A bottle of "Best Olive Oil" was purchased as part of a maternity pack. It was only when the liquid was applied to the new born child that it was found to be camphorated oil. The Magistrate's Court fined the firm £20 with costs.

In all cases other than numbers 5 and 8 strong warning letters were issued.

Further complaints were received from well meaning persons, however, due to a lack of evidence investigation was not possible. Examples of these being a bottle of milk containing a piece of glass. The milk had been drunk and the glass retained, another one being a stone in a cake, the cake being eaten—the stone retained.

### **Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders**

I am pleased to report that at no time was it necessary to issue warnings to any person for the depositing of crates of bottles on the the public highway.

January 1st. to December 31st. 1963

Cattle—No. of carcasses inspected ..... 44

DISEASES	Carcas- es	Head	Lungs	Liver	Heart	Kid- neys	Spleen	Intest- ines	Skirt	Other
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fasioliasis	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Angiomatosis	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pleurisy	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abscesses	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hydatids	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



Total weight of meat condemned .....	.....	1 cwt. 3 qrs.
Calves—No. of carcases inspected.....	.....	1
Goat       "       "       "	.....	Nil

# Tuberculosis

# Cysticercosis

Whole carcase condemned	.....	Nil
Part carcase or offals	.....	1
Carcase to Refrigeration	.....	1
Percentage of cattle	.....	2.2%

**Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned**  
**in whole or in part**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number killed .....	44	Nil	1	182	Nil	Nil
Number inspected .....	44	Nil	1	182	—	Nil
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</b> Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	10	—	—	11	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis .....	22.7%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%
<b>Tuberculosis only.</b> Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .....	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	—
<b>Cysticercosis.</b> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration .....	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—

## Food Inspection

During the course of the year the undermentioned items of food have been condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

Luncheon Meat .....	4-lb. 12-oz.
Cooked Gammon .....	1-lb.
Tinned Tomatoes .....	21-lb. 6-oz.
Tinned Fruits (Various) .....	8-lb. 6 oz.-
Tinned Salmon .....	2-lb.
Tinned Tuna Fish .....	1-lb. 5-oz.
Tinned Peas .....	4 lb.
Tinned Ham .....	48-lb. 4-oz.
Condensed Milk .....	8-oz.
Tinned Sardines .....	8-oz.
Corned Beef .....	70-lb. 4-oz.
Jellied Veal .....	6-lb.
Stewed Steak .....	11-lb. 4-oz.
Yams .....	10-cwt.
Tinned Soup .....	1-lb. 8-oz.
Minced Beef .....	1-lb.
Evaporated Milk .....	$\frac{1}{2}$ pint.
Shoulder Breast and Neck Lamb	35-lb. (blood splashing)

The reasons for condemnation being leaking and damaged tins, decomposition and putrefaction.

## Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the area, the manufacture of this commodity now largely being concentrated in the hands of the larger companies and sampling of their commodity at periodical intervals revealed that a high standard had been maintained both in manufacture and distribution.

All shops were maintained in conformity with the Food Hygiene Regulations. Hygiene tests have been carried out particularly on soft ice cream machines one producing a Grade IV sample.

<i>Details</i>	<i>Colony count/swab</i>	<i>E. Coli Non faecal</i>
1. Injection Plate	2,000 cols.	Present in 1 ml.
2. Mixing Chamber	650 cols.	Present in 1 ml.
3. Air Vent	Under 100 cols.	Nil.
4. Chamber reservoir	Under 100 cols.	Nil.



This is an unsatisfactory sample. Improved sterilising procedure procured.

1. Injection Plate	Under 100 cols.	Nil.
2. Mixing Chamber	Under 100 cols.	Nil.
3. Air Vent	Under 100 cols.	Nil.
4. Chamber reservoir	Under 100 cols.	Nil.

This represents satisfactory samples taken later.

**Wednesfield's Open Market**

This has continued to progress throughout the year and maintained a high standard. No open food is sold on the market as such but 6 permanent stalls are erected on the periphery of the market site and are occupied solely by food purveyors, two being for butchers' meat, one confectionery, one fish, one poultry and one snack bar. All are equipped with refrigerated displays, sinks and hot water systems and have considerably improved the tempo of activity on the market.

**Fish and Chip Saloon**

There are now six registered saloons in the district. One new licence was issued, 17 visits were made.

**Mortuary**

During the year a total of 30 bodies have been admitted to the Council's Mortuary and post-mortem results revealed the following causes of death :—

Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	2
Coronary Thrombosis	.....	.....	.....	12
Gas Poisoning	.....	.....	.....	9
Heart Failure	.....	.....	.....	6
Asphyxia (Drowning)	.....	.....	.....	1

During the year the Council's New Mortuary, built on modern lines was opened, containing a three tier refrigerator, new stainless steel revolving P.M. table, gas fired incinerator, ample facilities for Doctor, Attendant, clothes, valuables, reception, viewing which drew favourable comment from the Pathologist.

## **Litter Act, 1958**

During the year under review seven cases of “deposition of litter in a place in the open air to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access without payment” occurred.

In two cases this Authority took a successful prosecution, details of which I itemise hereunder.

1. Surplus material tending to deface the area adjacent to a public thoroughfare (Section 1).  
GUILTY. Fined £10. 10s. 0d. with costs.
2. Rubbish tending to deface the area adjacent to a public thoroughfare (Section 1).  
GUILTY. Fined £3. 3s. 0d. with costs.

Mitigation in the second case was undoubtedly due to the offender's effort to clear away the rubbish as soon as notified of an impending summons.

I also assisted in a further case where the land was situate in an adjoining district ; this case too being proved.  
£5. 5s. 0d. fine and costs.

In the other cases (three for scrap vehicles which were traced with the aid of the local Constabulary and Local Taxation Licensing Department and two for dumping on open land from vehicles) strong warning letters were sent, resulting in the complete clearance of the areas involved.

## **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

One premise remains licensed in this connection, conditions being maintained very satisfactorily. Six visits were made.

## **Registration of Old Metal Dealers. Public Health Amendment Act, 1907—Section 86**

Three dealers are registered under this section and operate in the district, surveillance having been maintained throughout the year in full co-operation with the Local Police Inspector.

## **Itinerants**

The true romany gives no trouble, but tatters made 20 incursions into the district during the year and in 12 instances it was necessary to forcibly eject them, failing co-operation on their part in moving.

Only two sites now remain available to them and investigations are now to hand to see if these sites can be closed. Previously, the erection of concrete posts and ditching has had the required effect, but it now appears that 'mounding' of approach to all vacant sites will be necessary to give full protection.

## **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949**

Activity continues toward the control of pests ; good co-operation is operating between the department with factories, schools, building sites, etc., and in the carrying out of periodic sewer treatment such treatment reveals that the district is not suffering from any serious infestation but only sporadic infestations are revealed in new development areas on the fringe of the populated areas. The following tables give details of activity undertaken.

During the year a further contract treatment was arranged with a local factory in the sum of £20. 0s. 0d. per annum. A total of £172. was collected by treatment of business premises.

I have found this type of treatment to be highly successful, monthly visits being maintained and possible severe outbreaks being caught at an early stage. I would like to see contractual agreement with many more premises in the district.



# PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for period 1st January to 31st December, 1963.

## 1. PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE

	Total (i)	Number of Properties in Local Authority's Area in which Infestation was			Analysis of Column (iv)		
		Notified by Occupier (ii)	Otherwise discovered (iii)	Recorded Total of (ii) & (iii) (iv)	Number infested by		
					Rats	Mice only (vii)	
					Major (v)	Minor (vi)	
Local Authority's Property	7	6	1	7	15	—	—
Dwelling House ( <i>Estimate</i> )	10,500	334	45	379	120	100	125
Business Premises	400	32	13	45	5	15	25
Agricultural Property	1	2	—	2	—	2	—
TOTAL	10,908	374	59	433	140	117	150

## 2. MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

	No. of Properties inspected	No. of Inspections made	Number of Notices served under Section 4		Number of Treatments carried out				Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Sect 6 (1) or by informal arrangement				
			Treatments	Works	By arrangement with occupier	Under Section 5 (1)		No. of Blocks	Surface	Assoc-Sewers	No. of Man-holes treated		
						Rats	Mice only					Rats	Mice only
Local Authority's Property	7	42	—	—	15	—	—	2	—	5			
Dwelling House .....	379	724	—	—	220	125	—	7	20	2			
Business Premises .....	45	186	—	—	20	25	—	1	3	2			
Agricultural Property .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
TOTALS .....	432	952	—	—	255	150	—	10	23	9			

The estimated kill for the whole 12 months is as follows :—

Business Premises .....	110 rats	28 mice
Private Dwellings .....	310 „	142 „
Urban District Council Premises .....	78 „	— „

## **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958**

### **Prevention of Cruelty Regulations 1958**

Two slaughtermen were licensed in the district. In each case a copy of the above Regulations was enclosed. None are licensed to slaughter horses.

## **Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963**

This Act received Royal Assent on 31st July, 1963. It will, by Regulation and enactment make fresh provision for health, safety and welfare of employed personnel in offices, shops and railway premises.

Inspectors will be appointed to enforce the Act but so far as offices and shops other than those attached to factories, and provisions other than fire precaution, the duty will undoubtedly fall on the shoulders of the Public Health Inspector who can utilise his vast knowledge of local conditions to work with fire officers (as with multi-occupied houses) and factory inspectors to bring the intentions of this Act to fruition.

The Act will apply to all premises where personnel are employed for more than 21 hours per week and will generally come into force on August 1st, 1964. Certain sections, notably the need to register, will come into force on May 1st, 1964.

## **Shops Act, 1950**

322 shops are on the register of the Urban District, all being satisfactorily maintained against the requirements of the Shops Act ; 172 are food shops, the remaining being divided as follows :—

Drapery, Millinery, Haberdashery .....	30
Wireless, Cycle, T.V. and Electric Stores .....	11
Hairdressing .....	14
Tobacconists .....	3
Newsagent/Tobacco .....	18
Boot and Shoe Repairers .....	8
Hardware and Ironmongery .....	7
Dry Cleaners .....	5
Post Offices .....	4
Watch and Clock Repairers, Jewellery .....	1
Corn Stores .....	1
Pet Shop .....	1
Libraries .....	3
Gas Appliances .....	1
Garden Tools and Timber .....	1
Toys, Perambulators .....	2
Wallpapers, Paints .....	4
Footwear .....	4
Outfitters .....	2
Laundrette .....	1

Certain of the above combine trades under one roof. All were conducted satisfactorily under the Shops Act legislation.



Continual Sunday trading observations have been made in respect to Shops Act legislation as such and no extreme contravention has been observed during the year under review.

### **Population**

Rough figures and estimates are maintained in regard to the estimated population of the district incorporating the influx population as a result of Overspill Building Scheme, and agreement with the County Council and the County Borough of Wolverhampton. I estimate the population of the district at the year end to be 35,576.

### **Factories Act, 1937**

The Table (Page 00) reveals that the tempo of activity under the Act has not been maintained throughout the year although known contraventions have been remedied without recourse to prosecution.

The variety of trades and new development has taken place in an ordered manner on your southern area thus keeping industry in this zone. The general standard remains high, although difficulty is still experienced in the Hickman Street area which is subject of procedure under the Housing Acts, and which industry is being considered for relocation.

# INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

Factories Act 1937

## 1.—INSPECTIONS

for purposes of provisions as to health  
Including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors

Premises	Number of		
	Factories on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories with mechanical power .....	114	18	1
Factories without mechanical power	16	12	—
Other premises under the Act (including works or building and engineering construction but not including outworker's premises). .....	12	16	—
TOTAL .....	142	46	1

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.) .....	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) .....	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.) .....	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)				
(a) insufficient .....	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .....	1	—	—	—

Outworkers numbered 5, 2 boxmakers, 2 apparel repairers, and 1 jewel setter, all of which were maintained satisfactorily throughout the year.









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